





Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: The examiner agrees that the angle of the tapered section is not taught by Gross, and because the length of the section is not disclosed the angle cannot be extrapolated. However, the examiner believes that this feature would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art because it is explicitly disclosed that the tapered section facilitates passage through the skin of the patient, and it is well known in the art that it is beneficial to reduce the puncture pressure to a minimum to make injection as painless as possible. Given these teachings, it would be obvious to one of skill in the art, given the teachings of Gross, including the disclosed needle diameters and configuration to alter the tapered section angle and length to provide a minimum puncture pressure. One of skill in the art would have the available knowledge and tools to test taper configurations to determine which provides the least puncture pressure, and therefore the least pain. The newly amended limitation was previously considered, and is interpreted to be a function of the dimensions of the needle, and therefore since the structural features of the needle are either disclosed or obvious, the resulting puncture resistance would be inherent.